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PATENT APPLICATION
Q62623

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kouichi NAKAMURA

Appln. No. 09/770,619

Confirmation No.: 6706

Filed: January 29, 2001

For: PNEUMATIC TIRE

Group Art Unit: 3617

Examiner: TBD

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GROUP 3600

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

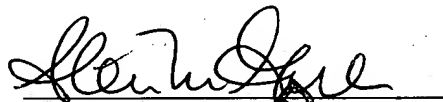
The undersigned attorney hereby states that, based upon information and belief:

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

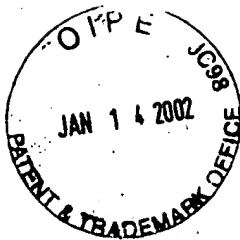
Respectfully submitted,

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Telephone: (202) 293-7060
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Date: January 14, 2002


Steven M. Gruskin
Registration No. 36,818

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TC 1700



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 that the Examiner may deem material to the patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, along with a copy of a Communication from a Foreign Patent Office relating to a counterpart European Application.

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The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) no later than three (3) months from the application's filing date for an application other than a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d); or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 and, therefore, no Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) can be made, such Statement is being filed concurrently herewith.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Please charge any fees due to maintain the pendency hereof (except the Issue Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Gruskin
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